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Hospitals confront water shortages in winter storm aftermath

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Hospitals across the South grappled with water shortages Sunday as the region carried on with recovery efforts in the wake of a devastating winter storm, and the weather offered a balmy respite — temperatures as high as the mid-60s. At the height of the storm, hospitals were left scrambling to care for patients amid record cold, snow and ice that battered parts of the country more accustomed to going through winter with light jackets and short sleeves. The icy blast ruptured water mains, knocked out power to millions of utility customers and contributed to at least 76 deaths — half of which occurred in Texas. At least seven people died in Tennessee and four in Portland, Oregon.

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Texans Cheerleaders and other volunteers pack food to distribute to hundreds of people picking up supplies from their cars after frigid temperatures left the Houston area depleted of resources, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021, in Houston.

Associated Press



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Hospitals confront water shortages in winter storm aftermath

Continued from Front

A rural hospital in Anahuac, Texas, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of Houston, lost both water and power. William Kiefer, CEO of Chambers Health, which runs the hospital along with two clinics and a wellness center, said the facilities resorted to backup generators and water from a 275-gallon storage tank. They refilled it three times using water from a swimming pool in the wellness center.

On Monday, when temperatures were in the teens, a woman about to give birth walked into the hospital after she could not make it through the ice and snow to her hospital in suburban Houston. Emergency room staff delivered the baby



From left, U.S. Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Sylvia Garcia, fill boxes at the Houston Food Bank on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021.

Associated Press

safely, Kiefer said.

"It would have taken her another two hours to get to (the suburban Houston hospital) if our facility

wasn't there," he said. "We can probably assume she would have had the baby in her car and the snow. Not a good situation."

Water was restored Thursday, and operations had returned to normal on Sunday, he said. The health system plans to look into installing more sophisticated backup systems, he said.

Houston Methodist Hospital spokeswoman Gale Smith said water had been restored at two of the system's community hospitals. The system is dealing with an influx of dialysis patients after their local centers closed, she added.

After temperatures plunged as much as 40 degrees below normal last week, the forecast for the Houston area called for a high of 65 degrees (18 degrees Celsius) on Sunday. The city lifted its boil-water advisory on Sunday afternoon.

Still, hundreds of cars lined up at NRG Stadium to receive food and water from the Houston Food Bank. The bank also delivered supplies to vulnerable citizens, including seniors and the disabled.

Memphis, Tennessee, saw 10 inches of snow last week. Memphis, Light, Gas & Water issued a boil-water advisory on Thursday out of concern that low water pressure caused by problems at aging pumping stations and water main ruptures could lead to contamination. The advisory was still in place Sunday; utility officials said they did not know when they might lift it.

About 260,000 homes and businesses were under the advisory. Hospitals and nursing homes have been forced to switch to bottled water. The Tennessee National Guard was supplying St. Francis Hospital with water.

Nearby Baptist Memorial Hospital has taken on some of St. Francis' patients, par-

ticularly those who need dialysis, said Dr. Jeff Wright, a pulmonary and critical care physician at Baptist. That hospital has a water purification system for dialysis and has water reserves for tasks such as cooking and bathing patients, he said.

"We have gallon jugs of water that were already stocked and ready to roll on day one," Wright said.

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare also reported problems at some of its Memphis-area facilities due to water pressure problems and the boil advisory. The system is using tanker trucks to boost water pressure and relying on help from facilities that have not been affected.

City officials planned to distribute water bottles at several locations Sunday. Grocery stores struggled to keep shelves stocked with bottled water. Many restaurants remained closed. Flights resumed Saturday at Memphis International Airport after everything was grounded Friday because of water pressure problems. Some problems still lingered, but airport officials set up temporary restrooms.

The weather created a backlog of about 6 million doses as power outages closed some vaccination centers and icy weather stranded vaccine in shipping hubs. White House press secretary Jen Psaki told ABC's "This Week" that about 2 million of those doses have gone out.

In Nashville, Tennessee, local COVID-19 task force leader Dr. Alex Jahangir said more than 2,300 seniors and teachers got vaccinated Saturday as the city resumed offering shots after days of treacherous weather. □

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New legislation would protect drivers who hit protestors

By SEAN MURPHY

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) —

When massive demonstrations against racial injustice erupted across the nation last summer, protesters used an increasingly common tactic to draw attention to their cause: swarming out onto major roads to temporarily paralyze traffic. This method sometimes resulted in searing images of drivers plowing through crowds, causing serious injuries and in some cases, deaths. Now, Republican politicians across the country are moving to stop the road-blocking maneuver, proposing increased penalties for demonstrators who run onto highways and legal immunity for drivers who hit them. The bills are among dozens introduced in legislatures aimed at cracking down on demonstrations.

"It's not going to be a peaceful protest if you're impeding the freedom of others," said Rep. Kevin McDugle, the author of an Oklahoma bill granting criminal and civil immunity to people who drive into crowds on roads. "The driver of that truck had his family in there, and they were scared to death."

He referred to an incident in July in which a pickup truck pulling a horse trailer drove through Black Lives Matter protesters on Interstate 244 in Tulsa. Three people were seriously injured, including



In this Sunday, May 31, 2020 file photo, protesters surround a truck shortly before it drove through the group injuring several on Interstate 244 in Tulsa, Okla.

Associated Press

a 33-year-old man who fell from an overpass and was left paralyzed from the waist down. Tumultuous demonstrations by left-leaning and right-leaning groups have stirred new debate about what tactics are acceptable free speech and which go too far. In addition to blocking roads, Black Lives Matter demonstrators have taken over parks and painted slogans on streets and structures, while right-wing groups have brandished firearms and stormed capitol buildings. Local authorities' responses have wavered as they try to avoid escalating conflicts.

Now legislators in Iowa, Mis-

souri, Oklahoma, Utah and about a dozen other states have introduced new counterprotest measures. The traffic-blocking tactic has attracted the most concern because of the obvious hazard.

In one particularly chilling incident in Minneapolis, a large tanker truck drove at high speed through thousands of protesters gathered on a closed highway. Remarkably, no one was seriously hurt, though a criminal complaint says at least one protester suffered abrasions. Mark Faulk, a longtime Oklahoma activist who was arrested last year for blocking a roadway, said dramatic tac-

tics are necessary to get people's attention. "The idea of escalating it to the point where you disrupt the convenience of the citizens and of the status quo, you have to do that sometimes to make a point," Faulk said. But Carmyn Taylor, 20, recalled the sight of a pickup truck bearing down on protesters spread across the six-lane I-244 in Tulsa. "The most vivid thing I remember is when I got pulled to the ground. I remember seeing both sets of wheels run over my legs, which was a little traumatizing," said Taylor, who suffered a broken leg and a sprained ankle. "For the first two weeks after the acci-

dent, I couldn't walk."

In Seattle, Summer Taylor, 24, was killed and another person was seriously injured in July when a man drove his car into protesters on a closed Seattle freeway. A graphic video posted on social media showed the car swerving around several parked cars and slamming into the two protesters, sending them flying into the air. In an incident in St. Louis in May, a 29-year-old man was dragged to his death beneath a tractor-trailer that drove into a sign-carrying group on a road.

Whether drivers face criminal charges in such incidents depends on the circumstances of each case, prosecutors say. The tractor-trailer driver in St. Louis has not been criminally charged, while the driver of the car in Seattle has pleaded not guilty to charges of vehicular homicide, vehicular assault and reckless driving. District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler declined to file charges against the driver in Tulsa, saying several people in the crowd had attacked the vehicle with the driver's children inside. But Kunzweiler stopped short of endorsing proposals for harsher penalties for protesters or blanket immunity for drivers. "There are any number of laws already in place that are readily available to be enforced," he said. □

Airlines plan to ask passengers for contact-tracing details

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. airline industry is pledging to expand the practice of asking passengers on flights to the United States for information that public health officials could use for contact tracing during the pandemic.

An industry trade group said Friday that the carriers would turn over the information to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which could use it to contact

passengers who might be exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Delta and United have been doing that since December. On Friday, an industry trade group said that American, Southwest, Alaska, JetBlue and Hawaiian will also ask passengers to make their names, phone numbers, email and physical addresses available to the CDC.

The airlines had long resisted government efforts

to require them to gather passenger information and provide it to health agencies. They said they don't have the information on passengers who buy tickets from other sellers such as online travel agencies. They also argued that gathering the information and making it immediately available to the government would be time-consuming and require costly upgrades to computer systems.



In this Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021, file photo, travelers wear face coverings as they queue up at the north security checkpoint in the main terminal of Denver International Airport, in Denver.

Associated Press

The CEO of trade group Airlines for America, Nicholas Calio, said carriers hope that their offer of voluntary information gather-

ing, along with testing of passengers entering the U.S., will lead the government to lift restrictions on international travel. □

Boy Scouts celebrate the first group of female Eagle Scouts

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

Growing up in Minneapolis, Isabella Tunney followed the progress of her older brother with admiration and occasional envy as he worked toward earning the Boy Scouts' prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.

This weekend, at age 16, Tunney will be one of nearly 1,000 girls and young women honored by the Boy Scouts in a virtual celebration of the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts. It's a major milestone, given the hallowed stature of a rank that has been attained over more than a century by astronauts, admirals, U.S. senators and other luminaries.

Only in 2018 did the Boy Scouts start accepting girls as Cub Scouts; older girls were admitted into the flagship scouting program in 2019. Overall, more than 140,000 girls have joined.

Tunney, like many of the girls attaining Eagle rank, worked intensively to amass the needed merit badges within two years. A minimum of 21 badges are required to attain Eagle; Tunney earned all 137, in subjects ranging from welding to white-water rafting to coin collection.

"The quarantine helped a lot," she said, referring to the lockdown ordered due to the COVID-19 pan-



This Oct. 1, 2020 photo provided by Edmund Tunney shows his daughter, Isabella, center, with Bev Verweg, her scoutmaster, and Brian Reiners, the scoutmaster of the corresponding linked boy troop, in Edina, Minn.

Associated Press

demic. "I had a lot of time to spare."

For her Eagle Scout public service project, she organized a drive to collect essentials for families being assisted by a homeless shelter. Tunney is a junior at St. Paul Academy and Summit School in St. Paul, Minnesota, and she is interested in a career related to the STEM disciplines — science, technology, engineering and math.

As a child, she loved tagging along with her older

brother, Eugene, but was sad when he and their father would go off on weekend camping trips with the Scouts. "I was very envious of all those," she said. "When the Boy Scouts opened up to girls, I was so excited to get the opportunity to participate myself." Like Tunney, new Eagle Scout Sydney Ireland also was drawn to the Boy Scouts due to participation of an older brother. She became an unofficial member of his New York City unit

at age 4 and over the ensuing years was outspoken in urging the Boy Scouts to officially admit girls.

Ireland, 19, is now a sophomore at Amherst College, taking classes remotely from the Massachusetts island of Nantucket. She's majoring in political science and psychology; law school and a career in politics could be on the horizon. "Scouting has influenced my life in nearly every facet," she said via email, crediting the lead-

ership skills she learned in the Scouts for giving her the confidence to run for Amherst's student Senate. The Boy Scouts say about 6% of all scouts attain Eagle rank — roughly 2.5 million since the award's creation in 1911, a year after the Boy Scouts of America was founded.

"This is a powerful moment for these young women, for all Eagle Scouts, and for our nation," said Jenn Hancock, the BSA's national chair for programs. "People recognize Eagle Scouts as individuals of the highest caliber, and for the first time, that title isn't limited by gender."

The celebration of the new Eagle Scouts comes at a challenging time for the Boy Scouts. Facing a wave of lawsuits, it filed for bankruptcy protection a year ago in a step toward creating a huge compensation fund for tens of thousands of men who were molested as youngsters decades ago by scoutmasters or other leaders.

The case has advanced slowly since then in a federal bankruptcy court in Delaware. The BSA is expected to unveil a plan soon explaining how the compensation fund will be financed in a way that enables the organization and its local councils to maintain their programs. □



Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office deputies investigate a shooting at the Jefferson Gun Outlet in Metairie, La. Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021.

Associated Press

By STACEY PLAISANCE
Associated Press
METAIRIE, La. (AP) — A per-

son entered a gun store and shooting range in a New Orleans suburb and

Customers, staff fired back in gun store shooting; 3 dead

fatally shot two people Saturday, prompting customers and staff to open fire on the shooter, a sheriff said. The shooter also died.

The shooting happened around 2:50 p.m. at the Jefferson Gun Outlet in the suburb of Metairie, according to a release from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Joseph Lopinto said the shooter initially struck two people inside, and then several other people — whether employees or store customers — opened fire on the shooter, both inside and outside of the

building. Outside the building a man could be seen afterward behind yellow police tape yelling "Where is my son?"

Guns and ammunition are sold in the front of the outlet that faces a main thoroughfare through Jefferson Parish. Customers who want to frequent the gun range generally go around to the side entrance of the building.

Staff who work there often wear a sidearm.

Lopinto said two other people also were hit by gunfire and were hospitalized in stable condition. He said

there were multiple shooters. "We're trying to put it all together," the sheriff said during a short briefing with journalists.

None of the dead or wounded were immediately identified and details remained unclear.

Tyrone Russell and Wanetta Joseph were both in a concealed-and-carry course at the store when they heard what they both described as rapid firing. They said the gunfire sounded much louder than the usual muffled shooting that they are used to hearing inside the shooting range. □

U.N. nuclear chief says Iran to grant 'less access' to program

By AMIR VAHDAT, JON GAMBRELL and DAVID RISING

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran will begin to offer United Nations inspectors "less access" to its nuclear program as part of its pressure campaign on the West, though investigators will still be able to monitor Tehran's work, the U.N. atomic watchdog's chief said Sunday.

Rafael Grossi's comments came after an emergency trip to Iran in which he said the International Atomic Energy Agency reached a "technical understanding" with Tehran to continue to allow monitoring of its nuclear program for up to three months. But his remarks to journalists underlined a narrowing window for the U.S. and others to reach terms with Iran, which is already enriching and stockpiling uranium at levels far beyond those allowed by its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

"The hope of the IAEA has been to stabilize a situation which was very unstable," Grossi said at the airport after his arrival back in Vienna, where the agency is based. "I think this technical understanding does it so that other political consultations at other levels can take place and most importantly we can avoid a situation in which we would have been, in practical terms, flying blind." Grossi, the IAEA's director general, offered few specifics of the agreement he had reached with Iranian leaders. He said the number of inspectors on the ground would remain the same but that "what changes is the type of activity" the agency was able to carry out, without elaborating further. He stressed monitoring would continue "in a satisfactory manner." Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who under President Hassan Rouhani helped reach the atomic accord, said the IAEA would be prevented from accessing footage from their cameras at nuclear sites. That came dur-



Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, Rafael Mariano Grossi from Argentina, speaks to the media after returning from Iran at the Vienna International Airport, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021.

Associated Press

ing a state TV interview Sunday even before his meeting with Grossi.

"This is not a deadline for the world. This is not an ultimatum," Zarif told the government-run, English-language broadcaster Press TV. "This is an internal domestic issue between the parliament and the government."

"We have a democracy. We are supposed to implement the laws of the country. And the parliament adopted legislation — whether we like it or not."

Zarif's comments marked the highest-level acknowledgement yet of what Iran planned to do when it stopped following the so-called "Additional Protocol," a confidential agreement between Tehran and the IAEA reached as part of the landmark 2015 nuclear deal. The IAEA has additional protocols with a number of countries it monitors.

Under the protocol with Iran, the IAEA "collects and analyzes hundreds of thousands of images captured daily by its sophisticated surveillance cameras," the agency said in 2017. The agency also said then that it had placed "2,000 tamper-proof seals on nuclear material and equipment." In his interview, Zarif said authorities would be "required by law not to provide the

tapes of those cameras." It wasn't immediately clear if that also meant the cameras would be turned off entirely as Zarif called that a "technical decision, that's not a political decision."

"The IAEA certainly will not get footage from those cameras," Zarif said.

Grossi didn't address Zarif's camera remarks Sunday night, but stressed that European and U.S. leaders needed to salvage the situation through negotiations. "What we have agreed is something that is viable. It is useful to bridge this gap," Grossi said. "It salvages this situation now, but, of course, for a stable, sustainable situation there will have to be a political negotiation and that is not up to me."

There are 18 nuclear facilities and nine other locations in Iran under IAEA safeguards.

In 2018, then-President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. unilaterally out of the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, saying it needed to be renegotiated.

Even as Iran has backed away from restrictions of the deal since then to put pressure on the other signatories — Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China — to provide new economic incentives to offset U.S. sanctions, those countries

have insisted it's critical to keep the deal alive so that inspectors are able to continue to verify Iran's nuclear activities.

From Washington, U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said President Joe Biden remained willing to negotiate with Iran over a return to the nuclear deal, an offer earlier dismissed by Zarif.

"He is prepared to go to the table to talk to the Iranians about how we get strict constraints back on their nuclear program," Sullivan told CBS's "Face the Nation." "That offer still stands, because we believe diplomacy is the best way to do it."

On U.S. citizens being held by Iran, Sullivan added: "We have begun to communicate with the Iranians on this issue."

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told state TV late Sunday night responding to Sullivan that "there are no direct talks between Iran and the U.S. in any field." However, Khatibzadeh said the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, which has looked out for American interests in the decades since the 1979 hostage crisis, has passed messages between the countries on prisoner issues since Biden took office.

Iran's parliament in December approved a bill

that would suspend part of U.N. inspections of its nuclear facilities if European signatories do not provide relief from oil and banking sanctions by Tuesday.

Already, Iran has slowly walked away from all the nuclear deal's limitations on its stockpile of uranium and has begun enriching up 20%, a technical step away from weapons-grade levels. It also has begun spinning advanced centrifuges barred by the deal, which saw Iran limit its program in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

An escalating series of incidents since Trump's withdrawal has threatened the wider Mideast. Over a year ago, a U.S. drone strike killed a top Iranian general, causing Tehran to later launch ballistic missiles that wounded dozens of American troops in Iraq.

Zarif brought up the attacks in his interview with state TV, saying the IAEA must keep some of its information confidential for safety reasons.

"Some of them may have security ramifications for Iran, whose peaceful nuclear sites have been attacked," Zarif said. "For a country whose nuclear scientists have been murdered in terrorist operations in the past — and now recently with Mr. Fakhrizadeh — confidentiality is essential." □

Israel shuts Mediterranean shore after oil devastates coast

By ILAN BEN ZION

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel closed all its Mediterranean beaches until further notice on Sunday, days after an offshore oil spill deposited tons of tar across more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) of coastline in what officials are calling one of the country's worst ecological disasters.

Activists began reporting globs of black tar on Israel's coast last week after a heavy storm. The deposits have wreaked havoc on local wildlife, and the Israeli Agriculture Ministry determined Sunday that a dead young fin whale that washed up on a beach in southern Israel died from ingesting the viscous black liquid, according to Kan, Israel's public broadcaster. Israel's Nature and Parks Authority has called the spill "one of the most serious ecological disasters" in the country's history. In 2014, a crude oil spill in the Arava Desert caused extensive damage to one of the country's delicate ecosystems.

The Environmental Protection Ministry and activists



Danny Morick, marine veterinarian, and Aviad Scheinin take samples from a 17 meters (about 55 feet) long dead fin whale washed up on a beach in Nitzanim Reserve, Israel, Friday, Feb. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

estimate that at least 1,000 tons of tar, a product of an oil spill from a ship in the eastern Mediterranean earlier this month, have already washed up on shore. The ministry is trying to determine who is responsible. It declined commenting on details of the investigation because it was ongoing.

Yoav Ratner, coordinator of the ministry's oil spill con-

tingency plan, said that there were still many "unknown unknowns" about the extent of the ecological damage and therefore it was difficult to say how long clean-up would take. Thousands of volunteers took to the beaches on Saturday to help clean up the tar, and several were hospitalized after they inhaled toxic fumes. The mil-

tary also deployed thousands of soldiers to assist in the operation.

The Environmental Protection, Health and Interior Ministries issued a joint statement Sunday warning the public not to visit the entire length of the country's 120-mile (195 km) Mediterranean coastline, cautioning that "exposure to tar can be harmful to public

health." Environmental Protection Minister Gila Gamliel told Hebrew media that her department estimates the clean-up project will cost millions of dollars.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu toured one of the country's tar-pocked beaches on Sunday and praised the ministry's work. Representatives from a coalition of Israeli environmental groups said in a press conference on Sunday that the ministry was woefully underfunded and that existing legislation did little to prevent or address environmental disasters.

Arik Rosenblum, director of the Israeli environmental group EcoOcean, said that the Environmental Protection Ministry is "fighting this situation and many other situations with their hands tied behind their back" because of inadequate legislation.

They cautioned that this disaster should be a wake-up call for opposition to a planned oil pipeline connecting the United Arab Emirates and Israeli oil facilities in Eilat — home to endangered Red Sea coral reefs. □

Libyan interior minister survives attack on motorcade



In this Dec. 26, 2019 file photo, Libyan Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha speaks during a news conference in Tunis, Tunisia.

Associated Press

By SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The interior minister of Libya's U.N.-backed government survived an ambush by gunmen on his motorcade on Sunday, a brazen attack highlighting the towering challenges that remain for

the newly appointed government that is trying to unite the country before elections late this year. Armed men opened fire at Fathi Bashagha's motorcade on a highway in Tripoli, wounding at least one of his guards, said Amin al-Hashmi, a spokesman

for the Tripoli-based Health Ministry.

He said the minister survived the attack and his guards chased the assailants, killing one and detaining two others.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement that Bashagha was returning to his residence in the Janzour neighborhood when armed men in an armored vehicle opened fire on his convoy.

The statement called the attack an "attempted assassination" of the minister. Earlier Sunday, Bashagha met with Mustafa Sanalla, head of Libya's National Oil Corporation to discuss the security of oil facilities and how to strengthen the corporation's independence to "ensure a fair distribution of wealth among all Libyans." He posted a photo for both of them on his Twit-

ter account, calling their meeting "fruitful."

The U.S. Ambassador in Libya Richard Norland also condemned the attack and called for an investigation to hold those responsible accountable.

The U.N. special envoy to Libya Jan Kubis also urged a "full, rapid, and transparent investigation" into the incident, saying it had aimed at "derailing the political process and other efforts in support of Libya and its people."

He said the attack has also showed "how important it is to keep all the arms only in the hands of the legitimate authorities."

Oil-rich Libya was plunged into chaos after a 2011 NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. The country has been divided between two gov-

ernments, one in the east and another in the west, each backed by a vast array of militias as well as foreign powers.

Earlier this month, an UN-appointed body comprised of Libyans from both sides appointed an interim government — a three-member Presidential Council and a prime minister — to lead the country through elections, scheduled for Dec. 24.

The newly appointed government, which has yet to resume its powers, called for judicial authorities to reveal the circumstances of the incident and bring those responsible before justice.

Bashagha was a contender for the post of prime minister, in the end Abdul Hamid Mohammed Dbeibah was chosen to lead the transitional Cabinet. □

Myanmar protest plan for general strike draws junta threat

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)

— A call for a Monday general strike by demonstrators in Myanmar protesting the military's Feb. 1 seizure of power has been met by the ruling junta with a thinly veiled threat to use lethal force, raising the possibility of major clashes.

The call for a general strike was made Sunday by the Civil Disobedience Movement, a loosely organized group leading resistance to the army's takeover. It asked people to gather together for the Five Twos — referring to the digits in Monday's date — to make a "Spring Revolution."

State television broadcaster MRTV late Sunday carried a public announcement from the junta, formally called the State Administration Council, warning against the general strike. "It is found that the protesters have raised their incitement towards riot and anarchy mob on the day of 22 February. Protesters are now inciting the people, especially emotional teenagers and youths, to a confrontation path where they will suffer the loss of life," it said in an English language text shown onscreen. The spoken announcement in Burmese said the same thing.

Another part of the statement blamed protesters whose numbers allegedly



The casket containing the body of Mya Thwet Thwet Khine is carried through the crowds towards the cemetery in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021.

Associated Press

included criminal gangs for violence at demonstrations, with the result that "the security force members had to fire back." Three protesters have been shot dead so far.

The protest movement has embraced nonviolence and only occasionally gotten into shoving matches with police and thrown bottles at them when provoked.

In Yangon, the country's biggest city and commercial capital, trucks cruised the streets Sunday night blaring announcements that people should not at-

tend protests Monday and must honor a ban on gathering of five or more people. The ban on gathering was issued shortly after the coup but not enforced in Yangon, which for the past two weeks has been the scene of large daily demonstrations.

Many social media postings ahead of the scheduled nightly 1 a.m. cutoff of internet access service said security forces had set up roadblocks at strategic points in the city, including bridges and on streets leading to foreign embassies. Information on Twitter

accounts that have proven reliable in the past said that the normal blocking of internet access from 1 a.m. to 9 a.m. would be extended to noon in Yangon.

Earlier Sunday, crowds in Myanmar's capital attended a funeral for the young woman who was the first person confirmed to have been killed in the protests, while demonstrators also mourned two other protesters who were shot dead on Saturday.

Mya Thwet Thwet Khine was shot in the head by police on Feb. 9, two days before her 20th birthday,

at a protest in Naypyitaw, and died Friday.

Mourners lined the entrance to a cemetery in the city as the hearse carrying her body arrived and was taken to a crematorium where more people had gathered. They silently raised their hands in three-fingered salutes — a sign of defiance and resistance adopted from neighboring Thailand — as the black and gold vehicle rolled slowly past.

Inside the crematorium hall, the lid on Mya Thwet Thwet Khine's coffin was partially removed to allow a last glimpse of her head resting on a bed of red and white roses before she was cremated. Members of the crowd outside chanted "Our uprising must succeed!"

Elsewhere in Myanmar, protesters against the coup that ousted the nation's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, gathered again Sunday..

Demonstrators turned out in force in Mandalay, the country's second-biggest city, where security forces shot dead two people on Saturday near a dockyard where the authorities had been trying to force workers to load a boat. The workers, like railway workers and truckers and many civil servants, have joined the civil disobedience campaign against the junta.□

Tanzania's president admits country has COVID-19 problem

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Tanzania's president is finally acknowledging that his country has a coronavirus problem after claiming for months that the disease had been defeated by prayer.

Populist President John Magufuli on Sunday urged citizens of the East African country to take precautions and even wear face masks — but only locally made ones. Over the course of the pandemic he has expressed wariness about foreign-made goods, including COVID-19 vaccines.

The president's comments came days after the country of some 60 million people mourned the death of one of its highest-profile politicians, the vice president of the semi-autonomous island region of Zanzibar, whose political party had earlier said he had COVID-19. The president's chief secretary also died in recent days, though the cause was not revealed.

Magufuli, speaking at the chief secretary's funeral in a nationally televised broadcast on Friday, urged the nation to participate in three days of prayer for

unspecified "respiratory" illnesses that had become a challenge in the country.

Tanzania has not updated its number of coronavirus infections since April as the president has insisted COVID-19 had been defeated. Tanzania's official number of coronavirus infections remains at just 509, but residents report that many people have become ill with breathing difficulties and hospitals have seen a rise in patients for "pneumonia." The director-general of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, has



In this July 11, 2020 file photo, Tanzania's President John Magufuli speaks at the national congress of his ruling Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party in Dodoma, Tanzania.

Associated Press

added his voice to growing calls for Tanzania to acknowledge COVID-19 for the good of its citizens, neighboring countries, and

the world, especially after a number of countries reported that visitors arriving from Tanzania tested positive for the virus.□

MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers: Antigen & PCR-testing in the high-rise area; by walk-in and appointment. At your convenience!

PALM BEACH — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Center is your best option for the post vacation COVID-19 test which is now required by the U.S. before returning home. All passengers coming to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative (antigen or PCR) COVID-19 test result maximum three days prior to boarding the flight, or documentation of recovery from COVID-19. MedCare's testing centers in and close to the hotels provide you with an easy and secure solution. At this moment we are the only lab that offers the more convenient and cheaper Antigen Test!

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that is specialized in care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servicio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servicio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).

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For a selection of hotels/resorts in Aruba, MedCare has setup Testing Centers on site. The hotels/resorts at which we have a testing site are: Divi All Inclusive, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Golf, Divi Phoenix, Divi Tamarind, Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort, Hyatt Regency, Renaissance, and the Ritz-Carlton Resort. Please contact your front desk for more information on our Testing Centers at these properties.



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Passengers must be tested with a viral test that could be either an Antigen Test or a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), such as the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The costs for the Antigen Test are only \$50, and the PCR Test is available as well, for a higher charge of \$125. At this moment, only MedCare offers the easier and substantially cheaper Antigen Test that is acceptable for travel to the U.S. as per the CDC guidelines. Pre-travel testing is not covered by the Aruban visitor insurance. Please contact your insurance company to verify if testing costs are insured. Results are e-mailed to you within 24 hours of testing.

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Papillon Restaurant presents: Chef's Garden, the butterfly effect of magnificent local food



PALM BEACH —A true once-in-a-lifetime experience is coming up. The stage: an Aruban cunucu house creating a magical ambiance. The play: The Secret Garden; a 6-course culinary voyage by a Michelin-trained chef from Belgium, Griet Vanbrabant. The content: local products from local farmers tuned into the most amazing dishes; leaving you in an enchanted state and giving you a memory that will last a lifetime. Be sure to reserve this opportunity before others do. This production is presented to you by Papillon Restaurant.

Sometimes combining the best of the best is a matter of all things falling into place. Every Wednesday of January, 2021, from 7p.m. to 10p.m. you are welcomed to enter a world where food is a passion. Papillon Restaurant presents their guest chef, Vanbrabant - who will be on the island for a limited time period - and with The Secret Garden menu being a fresh concept on the island, we're sure you will fall completely in love with this.

A bit about Griet

Vanbrabant is a passionate chef with over 15 years of experience in fine dining menu development, culinary staff management, food preparation and creative recipe design. She is educated in classic French Cuisine and Modern Gastronomy teachings throughout her international



career in Michelin star and the World's 50 Best restaurants such as El Bulli and Comerc 24 in Barcelona, Pujol in Mexico City, Rockpool in Australia. Let her entice you with her succulent, Aruban recipes like they've never tasted before.

The menu is carefully done with local products, fresh and perfectly matched with a selection of wines by local sommeliers. Diet options are available; please inform them when you make your reservation.

The Secret Garden & Papillon

This is an in-home dining experience where you will feel you are part of an exclusive setting. Private culinary events are the owner's specialty and their lush, tropical garden is also inviting for you to relax and indulge in hours of authentic culinary delights, a heaven to foodies. For more than a decade, Papillon restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. They know how to thrill and in collaboration with The Secret Garden we can only expect phenomenal.

For reservations:

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RESTAURANT



Foundation Ajudo Na Aruba (FANA): Volunteers reach out to feed the Arubans in need

ORANJESTAD — In an interview with the Dutch Annelot Muijres, founder of the official Foundation Ajudo Na Aruba (FANA) meaning helping Aruba, Aruba Today heard about the growing poverty of the local people due to the COVID-19 crisis and the financial situation on the island. "We feed 12.000 mouths per month, the requests for help are skyrocketing while the donations are falling behind."

The 12.000 mouths per month come from 400 to 450 families per week which are provided with week packages by FANA, Muijres says. "We have families between two and nine persons so all different. We have many newborns which costs a lot of money and many young mothers cannot provide. FANA offers breast feeding assistance, baby formula and pampers and therefore we need donations really



bad." She also notices that most of the Aruban registered are now out of their saving money and still are unemployed plus without the financial support of the government. Many also inform her that the official food bank and the Red Cross are full so are unable

to register them and they consequently turn to FANA. "Our requests for registrations rise while our donations are decreasing. Ajudo na Aruba is run completely by donations, whether it's food or money (to buy food), diapers, formula or even toys and clothing,



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every single item donated is valuable to them. If you would like to join this good cause and support Aruba, feel free to donate or contact the organization if you require more information. ALL of the donations are used to help families in need.

Powered by volunteers

"We are doing this all with love and the help of our fantastic volunteers. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. The project depends on the tremendous effort of them as they –together with our fantastic donors – make this foundation a success." The volunteers work long days and take precious time away from their families to help Ajudo na Aruba reach out, Muijres says. If you would like to join their fantastic team, please contact the organization through the contact page on their website <https://www.ajudonaaruba.com/contact> and they will reach out to you.

Refugees

FANA collaborates with HIAS, a Jewish American nonprofit organization that provides humanitarian aid and assistance to refugees. Muijres informed Aruba Today before that she estimates there are between 25.000 and 30.000 illegals on the island. The total (legal) population of Aruba is about 106.000 inhabitants. "These refugees have no medical insurance, no jobs and are in immediate need of food and baby milk." The Arubahuis, the official representative of Aruba in the Netherlands, recently announced to support FANA by advertising online how to donate to the foundation.

Muijres started this initiative by preparing home-cooked meals from her home, but she soon real-

ized this was not enough. The grassroots organization became an official foundation with president Annelot Muijres, secretary Lizzy Jansen and treasurer Xander Muijres. They help all people in need, not only by providing meals or groceries, but also support in basic necessities like diapers, baby formula, soap etc. Have a look at Aruba Today's video about the foundation on our Facebook page and website: Corona Street Talk – Ajudo na Aruba <https://www.facebook.com/arubatoday/videos/2315084928799246/>. Mega Porch Sale

Help the foundation by passing by this upcoming Sunday February 28th, 2021 from 8am till 1pm at their mega porch sale at Av. Milio Croes 70 in Dakota (old Home & Nature Building). They will be selling clothing, household items, shoes, books, toys, freshly baked pancakes, ice cream, soda's and so much more. All proceeds will go to their families in need.

- Bring your own bag
- Wear a facemask
- Keep social distancing

For more information:

FANA
Av. Milio Croes 70
Oranjestad, Aruba
Facebook: FANA Fundacion Ajudo na Aruba, Website: <https://www.ajudonaaruba.com>



Suze Orman on women, money and surviving the pandemic

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP Personal Finance Writer

Women are bearing a tremendous financial burden during the pandemic, primarily because of leaving the workforce, by choice or by force.

The Associated Press spoke with Suze Orman, personal finance expert and author of the podcast Women & Money, about how women can survive and emerge from this period.

Responses were edited for length and clarity.

Q: A lot of financial advice is focused on savings and investing. But what advice do you have for people who are simply struggling to get by?

A: You first have to list everything you spend money on and determine the must-spends. Buying clothes or ordering something on Amazon, those are not a must-spend. Gasoline for a car, food at a grocery store, those are must-spends. List them in terms of priority — shelter and sustenance are the top.

Then, look at the must-spends and see what you can suspend. Federal student loan payments are suspended until the end of September. Mortgages you can suspend. If you are struggling, do not pay bills you do not have to pay if you can put them on hold. It's important to take a really realistic look at your life, so that you don't keep kicking the can down the road. If you are going to owe your landlord eight months of back rent and you can't pay it, you have to start making a plan now for the day that happens.

I would pretend like tomorrow everything is back to where I owe student loan payments and I owe this and owe that and start downsizing and figure that out now.

Q: In some cases, people made some good financial choices during the pandemic — saving more, paying off credit cards, spending less. Do you think it will stick and are there any lessons you hope people take away from this?

A: While I would love to



This photo provided by Hay House, Inc. shows Suze Orman.

Associated Press

think these habits will stick, I do not. The easiest thing to do in life is to forget and the hardest thing to do is remember.

I thought 2008 would teach people to have an emergency fund, not run up debt, to stop buying bigger houses and new cars all the time. I thought for sure that would happen. But as the stock market started to go up and go up, and they saw their 401(k) and statements expand, all of a sudden they felt rich again and they felt like they could do anything. They could go out to eat and could get bigger homes.

Even though credit card debt has gone down...give it 10 years and this will just be whatever. A whole new group will be in their place (spending again).

I hope I am wrong.

Q: Even just a one-year employment gap can lead to a big decrease in earnings for women. For those that do return to the workforce, what can they do to make up for this period?

A: It's not just women, it is how are people going to make up for this lost year. You have to look at this as an opportunity. The oppor-

tunity is that you learned you need emergency savings or savings account. Or that you keep your car for 10 or so years instead of getting a new one every few years.

You make up for it by spending less than you normally would spend. You also make up for it by being active with your money. You make up for it by understanding that you pay for taxes now and opt for Roth retirement accounts. You make up for it by not buying certain investments. And by making sure if you own a home making sure it's paid off by the time you retire.

You have to take a hard core stance between what you can and cannot do so that you are okay. You cannot save the entire world until you save yourself. That is what we have to learn. This loss could lead to the biggest gains of your life.

Q: Why do you think women need financial advice specific to their gender?

A: Women are givers...it is their natural tendency to give, give, give.

I have done every talk show and met almost every celebrity out there. I

cannot tell you the famous women out there who are so wealthy — Oprah excluded — who do not know about money.

But women are willing to admit when they don't know the answers. I have yet to interview a man or go over their finances who don't have answers to every question I have for them. But they are the wrong answers. Men are financial fakers.

Q: Some women say they need to learn more about money and investing. What do you tell them?

A: Let's get really real. Women say they need to do it. It's not about needing to do it. It's about wanting to do it. If they wanted to do it — are you kidding me? They could watch CNBC, they could read Barrons and there are financial books galore.

Read my Women & Money book, listen to my podcast. It's an excuse. It's like saying I need to lose weight, okay then do it.

It's not until you want to do it that you will do it. There is not a lack of resources out there. In this day and age you have a million ways you can go (to invest). □

Do not tell Suze Orman that you don't know where to go to do this. You are just fooling yourself, and you are the one that is losing out.

Q: The pandemic is expected to set women back years in terms of economic security and representation in the workforce. Do you think that they, as a group, can recover from this?

A: Absolutely. I absolutely do. I do think it could be another rough year. I don't think it will be until March 2022 until we feel some normalcy. But I think women have the ability to recreate themselves all the time.

If you have what it takes to recover from a divorce — and most women do — or the death of a spouse, you can recover from a one or two year setback from a pandemic where the entire world was affected.

Emotionally you are not by yourself, it's a world-wide phenomenon. You have emotional support. So you absolutely have what it takes to recover.

I believe if you learn the lesson that this taught you, you will emerge far richer, far stronger and more secure. □

Weather experts: Lack of planning caused cold catastrophe

BY SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

This week's killer freeze in the U.S. was no surprise. Government and private meteorologists saw it coming, some nearly three weeks in advance. They started sounding warnings two weeks ahead of time. They talked to officials. They issued blunt warnings through social media.

And yet catastrophe happened. At least 20 people have died and 4 million homes at some point lost power, heat or water.

Experts said meteorologists had both types of sciences down right: the math-oriented atmospheric physics for the forecast and the squishy social sciences on how to get their message across.

"This became a disaster because of human and infrastructure frailty, a lack of planning for the worst case scenario and the enormity of the extreme weather," said disaster science professor Jeannette Sutton of University at Albany in New York.

The event shows how unprepared the nation and its infrastructure are for extreme weather events that will become bigger problems with climate change, meteorologists and disaster experts said.

Insured damages — only a fraction of the real costs — for the nearly week-long intense freeze starting Valentine's Day weekend are probably \$18 billion, according to a preliminary estimate from the risk-modelling firm Karen Clark & Company.

Kim Klockow-McClain heads the National Weather Service's behavioral insights unit, which focuses on how to make forecasts and warnings easier for people to understand and act on.

People heard the message and got the warnings, she said. For various reasons — thinking cold is no big deal, not having experienced this type of extreme cold, and focusing more on snow and ice than the temperature — they were unprepared, Klockow-Mc-



Tina Hall, left to right, Susana Sosa, Jim Sefcik and Chris Sosa wait in line to fill up their containers with water at Meanwhile Brewing Company in Austin, Texas, on Friday, Feb. 19, 2021, during a citywide boil water notice caused by the winter storm.

Associated Press

Clain said.

"The meteorology was by far the easiest part of this," Klockow-McClain said.

Private winter storm expert Judah Cohen of Atmospheric and Environmental Research first blogged about the danger on Jan. 25. He said the meteorological signal from the Arctic, where the cold air was escaping from, "was literally blinking red. It was the strongest I'd seen."

At the University of Oklahoma, meteorology professor Kevin Kloesel, who also is the school's emergency manager, sent out an alert on Jan. 31 warning of "sub-freezing temperatures and the possibility of sub-zero wind chills." By Feb. 7, almost a week before the worst of the freeze started, he was sending multiple warnings a day.

University of Oklahoma meteorology professor Jason Furtado tweeted about "off the chart" cold on Feb. 5.

The weather service started talking about the freeze about two weeks ahead of time and gave "the most accurate forecast we can do along with consistent messaging," said John Murphy, the agency's chief operating officer. "The magnitude and severity of the event is one that some people weren't fully prepared for."

Texas A&M University meteorology professor Don Conlee said forecasting private and public was "probably the best I have seen in my meteorological career."

So why did so many entities seem unprepared?

One of the main problems was the Texas power grid, which is overseen by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas.

Sutton said there was "a huge failure" on that part of the infrastructure.

"Institutional memory appears to be less than 10 years because this happened in 2011 and there was a comprehensive set of recommendations on how this might be avoided in the future," Kloesel said in an email.

The grid operator's chief executive officer, Bill Magness, told reporters Thursday that the agency prepared based on past cold outbreaks and "this one changes the game be-

cause it was so much bigger, so much more severe and we've seen the impact it's had." Essentially saying it was so big it wasn't planned for "is not a great way to plan," Sutton said, "especially if we are supposed to learn from our failures."

Another possible issue is that meteorologists who do warnings weren't familiar with the fragility of the Texas grid, so they were not able to emphasize power more in their warnings, Klockow-McClain said.

Also, this was so unusual that ordinary people had no idea how to handle it, Sutton said. It simply wasn't something they had experienced before.

People also think they know cold, even though this was different and extreme, so people likely judged the forecasts based on much milder chills, Klockow-McClain said.

The forecast also included snow and ice that probably got people's attention more than the temperature drop, Klockow-McClain said.

"Human beings, we live our lives as though we are not at risk," Sutton said. "We come up with all kinds of rationale for 'we're going to be OK.'" □

Space station launch honors 'Hidden Figures' mathematician

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

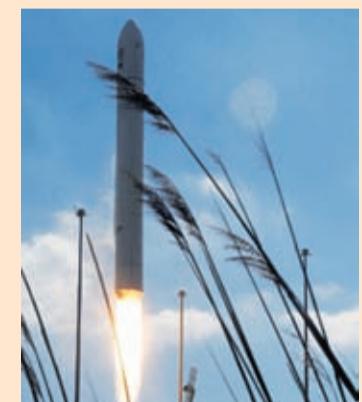
(AP) — A space station supply ship named after the Black NASA mathematician featured in the movie "Hidden Figures" rocketed into orbit Saturday, the 59th anniversary of John Glenn's historic launch.

Northrop Grumman's Cygnus capsule — dubbed the S.S. Katherine Johnson — should reach the International Space Station on Monday following its launch from Virginia's eastern shore.

"Mrs. Johnson was selected for her hand-written calculations that helped

launch the first Americans into space, as well as her accomplishments in breaking glass ceiling after glass ceiling as a Black woman," Frank DeMuro, a Northrop Grumman vice president, said on the eve of liftoff. "A homework assignment for all of you is to go watch that movie after the Cygnus launch."

Johnson's numbers contributed to the Feb. 20, 1962, flight in which Glenn became the first American to orbit the world. The film, released in late 2016, depicted the effort put forth by Johnson and other Black women at NASA's Langley Research



Northrop Grumman's Antares rocket lifts off the launch pad at NASA's Wallops Island flight facility in Wallops Island, Va., Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021.

Associated Press

Center in Hampton, Virginia, during the early days of space exploration. Langley is 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the launch site at Wallops Island. □

Cyprus activists: Hunters' lead pellets threaten flamingos



Flamingos at a salt lake in the southern coastal city of Larnaca, in the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus, Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021.

Associated Press

By M. ANDRONICOU and MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS
Associated Press

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — Conservationists in Cyprus are urging authorities to expand a hunting ban

throughout a coastal salt lake network amid concerns that migrating flamingos could potentially swallow lethal quantities of lead shotgun pellets.

Martin Hellicar, director of

Birdlife Cyprus, said flamingos are at risk of ingesting the tiny pellets lying on the lakebed as they feed.

Like other birds, flamingos swallow small pebbles to aid digestion, but can't distinguish between pebbles and the lead pellets.

Cyprus is a key stop on the migration path for many types of birds flying from Africa to Europe.

The Larnaca Salt Lake, a wetlands network of four lakes, typically welcomes as many as 15,000 flamingos from colder climates to the southern coast of the island nation in the eastern Mediterranean. They stay through the winter and leave in March.

Other water fowl frequent-

ing the lake include ducks, waders and seagulls. □

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★

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2/22

How to reach us!

The map shows the following streets and landmarks:

- Weststraat
- Scheepstraat
- Schelpstraat
- High Rise Hotel
- Bus terminal
- Royal Plaza Mall
- L.G. Smith Boulevard
- Downtown

The Aruba Today and Bondia offices are located on Weststraat, near the Royal Plaza Mall and L.G. Smith Boulevard.

The lighter days of CNN's Cuomo Brothers show are long gone

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Some television shows age much better than others.

For CNN, last spring's prime-time banter between Chris Cuomo and his older brother, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, looks worse in hindsight as the governor's administration is questioned about its role in failing to disclose the true number of COVID-19 nursing home deaths.

CNN is covering that story, but not on Chris Cuomo's show. The network said it had reinstated a prohibition on Cuomo interviewing or doing stories about his brother that it had temporarily lifted last spring.

The brothers were both in the spotlight last March. Chris Cuomo caught COVID-19 and continued anchoring his show from his basement, while the governor dealt with New York's hellish days as the nation's early coronavirus epicenter. Andrew Cuomo's near-daily briefing was widely televised and, to some viewers, embraced as a counterpoint to those held by former President Donald Trump.

Nine times between March 19 and June 24, 2020, the governor appeared on his brother's show. The trash-talking and brotherly love between the two Italians from Queens was fun if occasionally cheesy, like when Chris Cuomo mocked



New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, left, appears during a news conference about the COVID-19 vaccine at the State Capitol in Albany, N.Y., on Dec. 3, 2020, and CNN anchor Chris Cuomo attends the 12th annual CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute at the American Museum of Natural History in New York on Dec. 9, 2018.

Associated Press

his brother's big nose with a giant cotton swab he said would be necessary to give him a COVID-19 test.

"I found these interviews to be very entertaining, and perhaps Chris could ask questions of his brother that other people can't," said Roy Gutterman, a media law professor at Syracuse University. "But from the very beginning, I thought it was wildly inappropriate.

"It's Journalism 101," he said. "We tell our students you shouldn't interview your family and friends."

The policy avoids a con-

flict of interest — can one brother really be expected to ask tough questions of another? — or at the very least the appearance of one.

Through a spokeswoman, CNN said that the early months of the pandemic were an extraordinary time. "We felt that Chris speaking with his brother about the challenges of what millions of American families were struggling with was of significant human interest," CNN said. "As a result, we made an exception to a rule that we have had in place since

2013 which prevents Chris from interviewing his brother, and that rule remains in place today."

Largely bubbling below the radar for months, questions about Andrew Cuomo have come to the forefront in the past few weeks. New York's attorney general issued a report that said the administration minimized the number of nursing home residents who died of COVID-19 by excluding those who died elsewhere, usually a hospital.

This was significant because of a Cuomo admin-

istration directive in March that nursing homes should not deny admission or re-admission to a patient because they had COVID-19. The policy was rescinded two months later.

Keeping the true number of nursing home residents who died hidden would theoretically deflect any blame for a bad policy choice. The governor has blamed staff entering nursing homes for spreading the virus to the vulnerable population, not patients brought in with COVID-19. He has said it would be discriminatory not to let those patients into nursing homes.

Last week, it was revealed that an Andrew Cuomo aide told New York legislators that the true picture of nursing home deaths wasn't revealed for fear it would be used against the governor during an investigation launched by Trump's Justice Department.

The last time the governor appeared on his brother's show, in June, Chris Cuomo asked him: "Nursing homes. People died there. They didn't have to. It was mismanaged. And the operators have been given immunity. What do you have to say about that?"

The governor replied that some of what his brother said was incorrect. "But that's OK," he said. "It's your show. You say whatever you want to say." □

An updated version of Brian Stelter's 'Hoax' coming in June



President Donald Trump walks to board Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House on Jan. 12, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN

media correspondent Brian Stelter thought more than a quick update was neces-

sary in preparing for the paperback edition of his book from last summer, "Hoax: Donald Trump, Fox News and the Dangerous Distortion of Truth."

In effect, he's writing a substantially different book, adding some 20,000 words to the 95,000 of the hardcover edition.

Announced on Sunday, the revised edition will be released in June.

The changes reflect the end of Trump's presidency and the false claims of voter fraud, the rise of Tucker Carlson in becoming Fox's most prominent person-

ality, the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol and the emergence of Newsmax and One America News Network as bigger players in conservative media.

"The creation of the Fox News presidency was a critical story," Stelter told The Associated Press. "Now we've reached the end of the Fox News presidency." Stelter said he both added material to existing chapters and wrote entirely new chapters.

Even the book's cover has been changed. The original, which featured a picture of the back of Trump's

head, will be replaced by one with pictures of Fox News personalities.

"I hope this is now the complete story of Trump and Fox," Stelter said. "But who knows? Maybe Trump will join Fox." □

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2/22

Press, Rapinoe score, U.S. beats Brazil 2-0 in SheBelieves Cup

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Christen Press scored in the 11th minute, Megan Rapinoe added a late goal and the U.S. women beat Brazil 2-0 in the SheBelieves Cup on Sunday.

The U.S. sits atop the SheBelieves Cup standings with two wins. Canada and Argentina were to play later Sunday in the round-robin tournament.

The United States, winner of the last two World Cups, is now unbeaten in 36 straight games overall and 52 straight at home.

"One thing that I've learned playing on the U.S. women's national team is that you have to prepare for every single game as if it's the most important game of your life," Press said. "So that's kind of the approach I take."

The Americans have won five straight over Brazil and are unbeaten in the last seven matches. The team is 20-0-2 against Brazil on American soil.

"I am disappointed in the start of the game, of course. We conceded a goal. But not only a goal, the way we played our attack in the first 20 minutes," Brazil coach Pia Sundhage said. "That's room for improvement, for sure. But then the second half, and the fact that we created fairly many chances, I'm happy with that."

Press took a pass from Lindsey Horan and rushed forward, fooling a defender before a powerful strike to the far corner of the net. It was Press' 10th goal in her last 13 national team games and 59th international goal.

"Lindsey played me a great ball in on a diagonal, so that I wasn't in a crossing situation, I was actually able to cut in and open up the angle of the goal," Press said. "And that's what I want to do, it's my signature shot and my signature style so it was great to see it go in the back of the net." Moments later, Crystal Dunn's sliding tackle prevented Debinha on the breakaway. Brazil had a good chance in the 82nd minute when Marta

found Debinha in the box, but the shot went just wide. It was the 10th straight shutout for U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher.

Alex Morgan made her first start for the national team since giving birth to daughter Charlie last year. Morgan and Press were subbed out in the 71st minute and replaced with Rapinoe and Carli Lloyd.

Horan served the ball into the box for Rapinoe, who scored in the 88th minute. After she scored, Rapinoe made a baby-rocking gesture in honor of teammates Ali Krieger and Ashlynn Harris, who recently adopted daughter Sloane.

"I'm very happy that we're creating chances and the fact that we're doing it in



United States forward Megan Rapinoe (15) celebrates after scoring a goal during the second half of a SheBelieves Cup women's soccer match against Brazil, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

a manner that is very creative with some good plays makes me very happy and tells me that we're moving in the right direction," U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski said. "Now the fact that we're not finishing, it's not disappointing, but it's something we need to address."

Sundhage, who coached the U.S. from 2008-12, took Brazil over last summer and has an 8-2-3 record.

The U.S. beat Canada 1-0 in its SheBelieves Cup opener on Thursday, while Brazil defeated rival Argentina 4-1. Brazil is making its second overall appearance in the tournament, now in its sixth year. "I think those that were collectively kneeling felt like we were kneeling to bring about attention to police brutality and systemic racism," Dunn said. "Moving forward, we decided we no longer feel the need to kneel because we are doing the work behind the scenes. We are combating systemic racism. We never felt we were going to kneel forever." □

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Cloud 9: Djokovic wins 9th Australian Open, 18th Slam title

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Maybe, just maybe, the thinking went, Novak Djokovic would be just a tad more susceptible to trouble this time around at the Australian Open.

After all, he tore an abdominal muscle in the third round and wasn't sure he could continue to compete. Entering Sunday, Djokovic ceded five sets in the tournament, the most he ever dropped en route to a major final. And to top it all off, he was facing Daniil Medvedev, owner of a 20-match winning streak. Yeah, right. We're talking about Djokovic at Melbourne Park, where his dominance is most certainly intact — nine finals, nine championships. Plus, he's still gaining on Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal in the Grand Slam standings, now up to 18 overall, two shy of the men's record those rivals share.

Djokovic used improved serving, along with his usual relentless returning and baseline excellence to grab 11 of 13 games in one stretch and beat Medvedev 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 for a third consecutive Australian Open trophy.

"Definitely, emotionally, the most challenging Grand Slam that I ever had, with everything that was happening — injury, off-the-court stuff, quarantines," Djokovic said. "A roller-coaster ride."

When the match ended after less than two hours, Djokovic went to the sideline, lifted his white shirt and peeled pieces of beige athletic tape from his stomach.

"I was quite worried," Djokovic said about the injury. "I did not (think) realistically that I could actually play. I didn't know until two hours before the fourth-



Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup after defeating Russia's Daniil Medvedev in the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021.

Associated Press

round match."

Dealing with what he called "bearable" pain, Djokovic improved to a combined 18-0 in semifinals and finals on Melbourne's hard courts.

"Probably, it's not your last one," Medvedev said. "I have no words to say."

Djokovic, a 33-year-old from Serbia, has won six of the last 10 majors and will stay at No. 1 in the rankings at least through March 8. That will give him 311 weeks there, breaking another mark held by Federer.

His goals now are squarely on Grand Slams, even more than before.

Put Djokovic's nine triumphs in Australia alongside five at Wimbledon, three at the U.S. Open and one at the French Open. The math looks good for him: He is about a year younger than Nadal and 6 1/2 younger than Federer.

"I do enjoy the success ev-

ery single time even more," Djokovic said, "because I know that the longer the time passes, the more difficult it's going to become."

The No. 4-seeded Medvedev was appearing in his second Slam final; he was the runner-up to Nadal at the 2019 U.S. Open. The 25-year-old from Russia had won 12 in a row against Top 10 opponents, but trying to solve Djokovic in Australia is a unique challenge.

"He's really good (at) reading an opponent's game," Medvedev said, "knowing what you will do next, how to beat you."

As things slipped away, Medvedev bounced his white racket off the blue court, then absolutely destroyed it with a full-on spike. He kept looking up at his coach with palms up as if to ask, "What can I possibly do here?"

It is a familiar sentiment

in this stadium: Federer, Nadal, Andy Murray, Stan Wawrinka, Dominic Thiem — all Grand Slam champions, all defeated by Djokovic in semifinals or finals in Melbourne.

On a cool, cloudy evening, an event delayed three weeks because of the coronavirus pandemic closed with an announced attendance of 7,426 in Rod Laver Arena. Spectators were barred for five days earlier in the tournament because of a COVID-19 lockdown, but they eventually were let back in at 50% capacity.

"There are a lot of mixed feelings about what has happened in the last month or so with tennis players coming to Australia," Djokovic said. "But I think when we draw a line at the end, it was a successful tournament for the organizers."

And for him.

Medvedev's flat, wrap-the-racket-around-his-neck forehand was iffy at first, missing wide, long and into the net in the initial 10 minutes. Djokovic grabbed 13 of the match's initial 16 points and a quick 3-0 lead. Soon enough, though, it was 3-all, then 5-all.

But that's when Djokovic stepped up, and Medvedev stepped back. Djokovic held at love, then broke to claim the set when Medvedev slapped a forehand into the net just after someone in the crowd called out during the point.

Djokovic began the second set with a fault into the net, then shook his left arm and flexed his shoulders. That point ended with him missing a backhand into the net, and he glared at his guest box. Another netted backhand gifted Medvedev a break.

But the extreme experience gap showed there. Medvedev immediately relinquished his next two service games. In all, Djokovic broke seven times and made merely 17 unforced errors to Medvedev's 30.

"Masterpiece," said Goran Ivanisevic, the 2001 Wimbledon champion who is one of Djokovic's coaches. Medvedev appeared to have a tiny opening at 4-2 in the third, getting to 15-30 on Djokovic's serve with a forehand winner and waving to the crowd to make noise. As if viewing that as a personal affront, Djokovic took the next three points and the game, then pointed his right index finger to his temple and gritted his teeth.

Soon it was over.

"Coming to Australia, it always brings that extra dose of confidence to me," Djokovic said, "because of my record here and because of how I play." □